(b) what has been India's stand on issues relating to trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPs), Trade-related investment measures and the trade in services; and

(c) whether Government have evolved a strategy to fight out the pressure being imposed by the developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Uruguay Round negotiations are still continuing and there is no finality so far in respect of the various proposals under consideration. Therefore, the question of accepting high cost options without any corresponding gains does not arise.

(b) India's stand on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) has been that sufficient flexibility must be provided in any international framework on Intellectual Property Rights to take into account the developmental and technological needs and public policy objectives of developing countries. In the case of India, this is particularly relevant in the area of patents on account of our concerns regarding food security and access to medicines and health care at affordable prices. We re also opposed to the lodgement of such an agreement in GATT.

On Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), India has taken the stand that investment measures are used to harmonise the interests of foreign investors with the public policy objectives and priorities and the ability of Government to employ such measures should not be curbed. Our approach in the Uruguay Round has therefore been only to permit the interpretation and application of existing GATT rules to TRIMs and not to allow any new disciplines to be developed.

In respect of trade in Services, India is prepared to consider granting market access in selected sectors to foreign services providers in return for access in sectors of our interest with the facility of temporary relocation of service personnel covering a wide spectrum of skills.

(c) India's strategy has been to forge a common stand along with other like-minded developing countries in order to strengthen our negotiating position.

Export and import target for the current financial year

382. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) what is the value of export and import targetted for the current financial year and what percentage of the Gross Domestic Production do these constitute;

(b) what has been the actual performance during this year so far; and

(c) whether the Exim Scrips have been found advantageous for encouraging exports; if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) In light of uncertainities relating to developments in the global economy, exports to USSR on account of difficulties being experienced by the USSR to supply necessary imports due to dislocation in the Soviet Union, severe import curbs imposed on account of critical Balance of Payments situation and time lag for exporters to react to the far reaching reforms in trade policy, no specific export target for 1991-92 has been finalised. Ministry of Commerce do not fix any import target.

(b) According to provisional figures, India's exports during April—September 1991 amounted to approximately Rs. 18711, crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. Through Eximscrips, import of all raw materials and components, barring import of sensitive items such as Petroleum and Petroleum products, Fertilizers, etc. were linked to export performance. Moreover, the Eximscrips are freely transferable and hence command a premium in excess of 20 per cent. This is a built-in incentive for exporters.

India's Trade with USSR in certain commodities

383. DR. YELMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Soviet Union is buying items like tobacco, cashewnuts and the like from India under rupee payment and re-exporting these to India's traditional western customers and thereby depriving India of hard currency; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to stop this switch trading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Trade Agreement with USSR clearly provides that the goods exported from the Republic of India to the USSR and from the USSR to the Republic of India, are meant for use in USSR and India respectively and shall not be re-exported to any other country, unless specifically agreed upon between the competent authorities of the two sides. Government had received reports alleging that certain agricultural exports from India were being diverted by the importing organisations.

As a pre-emptive measure certain steps have been taken in the case of exports of various agricultural items. These include:

(i) Export benefits were to be recommended only after the exporter had produced a certificate issued by a recognised authority in the importing country that the goods had actually reached;

(ii) The provisions whether in terms of quantity or in value terms—laid down in the Trade Plan were not to be exceeded; and

(iii) Exports to the Rupee payment areas countries should as far as possible be in either Indian vessels or in the vessels of the importing country and use of intermediate third country vessels avoided.

If any specific instance of violation of the Agreement comes to the notice of the Government, the matter would be enquired into.

Savings schemes operational in the country

384. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the saving schemes under operation at present in the country;

(b) the total collections made during the last three years, scheme-wise and state-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the collections under these schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the state-wise expenditure incurred during the period on each scheme; and

(f) the steps being taken to boost collections through these schemes?